when the Kamchadal, Eskimo 101 563

salmon run begins, festivals of joy and work begin for young and old. As a rule the fish are caught in fixed traps, which are drawn across the river so that the way is barred for the fish as they go upstream. The fish press together in great masses in front of this weir and are caught with simple scoop nets. The common drying place is never empty, for it is important to preserve as many fish as possible for the entire year by drying them. In addition, an older method is still used occasionally: the fish are buried in the earth and there becomes sour; hence there is a kind of fish silo from which fish can be fetched during the winter as needed. A penetrating fish smell fills the entire settlement, and there is no end to eating during the catching season. It is not too much to say that the Kamchadal live on fish and tea. The dog, the most important domestic animal and beast of burden for all sedentary native northeast Siberians, is also fed on fish. The number of dogs is considered as the mark of wealth. There are families which have 200 to 300 dogs, which are housed in a pen near the house and fill the entire region with their hoarse barking. It is inadvisable for strangers to go near these half-wild animals. At present the horse is spreading more and more and is beginning to displace the dog as the beast of burden. Through the state organization of fishing and the introduction of modern methods, large sections of the Koryak have also been incorporated and placed in a new order. Many have also turned to agriculture and cattle-breeding.

[226] [251] [231]

/111/ The Asiatic Eskimo live on the banks of Bering Strait and occupy 17 villages with approximately 1,600 people. They extended much further formerly; and it is for this reason that there are Eskimo names for places now occupied by Maritime Chukchee. The displacement of the Eskimo must have been done simply by force, for the sagas of the Chukchee are filled with reports of hard battles with the Eskimo, battles which, however, ended long before the entrance of the Russians. Today the two peoples live harmoniously beside one another in separate villages. The Asiatic Eskimo differ from their relatives in Alaska in their speech but culturally they form a unit with them. With their life completely directed toward the sea, they seldom go into the interior of the land; for such occasions they use dog sleds. On the Commander Islands live approximately 500 Aleut, who, according to their language, are related to the Eskimo. They, too, live completely from catching sea animals, since the islands offer them only birds.

[174]

As has already been said, the Buryat Mongols have a cultural

167 into being. However, a significant part of the immigration has been also for the benefit of agriculture, which, according to all reports, has made extraordinary progress. Thus, Kamchatka, which earlier [241] had to have the bulk of its food supplied from outside, already gets along in large part with its own production, and the goal of autarchy in terms of food will probably soon be reached.

In the southern part of the peninsula, which has a mild climate, 231 the breeding of cattle has attained a great and continually growing significance. The climatic conditions here are approximately the same as those of Sweden. The number of cattle had already reached several thousand head by 1939. A series of livestock sovkhoz have taken over the job of supplying milk and meat to the localities en- 241 gaged in the fishing industry. In the Kamchatka valley and in the environs of Petropavlovsk agriculture, too, has made a start. The area under cultivation increases from year to year. In sovkhoz and kolkhoz grain, potatoes, and vegetables are cultivated with success. Fruit /301/ trees were introduced, and today are already yielding 664 their own apples. A series of agricultural experimental stations in the interior and also in the coastal regions are to prepare the further development of agriculture and the breeding of livestock.

Of greatest importance for the economy of Kamchatka is 228 fishing and the catching of sea animals. In this respect Kamchatka is the most important area in the Far East, and it is especially prominent because of the appearance of highly valuable types of salmon. The west coast has the principal role in the catching of salmon and crabs. On the east coast the area around the mouth of the Kamchatka is a pronounced salmon region, while Petropavlovsk constitutes the center of the catching of sea animals. From passive, rapacious catching of fish in immovable, built-in traps--the so-called "fish dams," which blocked the river--a transition has been made to catching the fish in sweep nets and drag nets. Thus the fish are now not caught at [251] the mouths of the rivers alone but also in the sea. The earlier, primitive covering of the mounds of caught fish with salt, a practice which was customary on the entire coast of the Far East and under which great quantities of fish spoiled, has given way to smoking of the fish and salting of the fish in vats and above all to processing in [255] canning factories. Modern fishing steamers with processing equipment on board have contributed to making Kamchatka today the second fish-catching region in the Soviet Union, second only to the Caspian Sea. In the catching of crabs Kamchatka even is in first place in the